Mass Poison Plot Charged To Philadelphia Extremists

Philadelphia, Sept. 27 (UPI) —A Negro extremist group planned the mass poisoning of policeman and citizens after starting a riot here, District Attorney Arlen Specter said today.

Specter said enough potassium cyanide "to kill thousands of human beings" was confiscated after an informant told the FBI of the alleged plot by the Revolutionary Action Movement (RAM).

The District Attorney said the plot called for the deadly poison to be placed in coffee and sandwiches served police from portable canteens in riots areas and also "in restaurants throughout the city in which policemen and other citizens would be taking food at that time."

Specter told a news conference that warrents had been issued for four men identified by the informant as members of the RAM. He identified the informant as Hilton Louis Jones, 22, of Philadelphia.

Specter would not comment on a report that he, Mayor James H. J. Tate and Police Commissioner Frank Rizzo were among those intended for death.

The four for whom warrants were issued were identified as Anthony B. Monteiro, of Philadelphia, a student at the University of Chicago, William James Lyles, also of Philadelphia who is under arrest on another charge; Reginald Granthum, of Philadelphia, and a fourth identified only as a Negro in his 20s called "Sakeeb."

Specter said they were accused of solicitation to murder and commit arson, conspiracy, carrying bombs and explosives, felonious possession of explosives, attempt to murder and conspiracy to commit riotous destruction of property.

Specter said the RAM members tried to start a riot here last July 29 but throwing a fire bomb into a building in north Philadelphia and then planned to proceed with the "wide distribution of the poison potassium cyanide."

Rizzo said the original plan was to report to police that a dice game was in progress in the building in the hopes that police would raid it and area citizens could be aroused.

Rizzo said he investigated the dice game report "personally and figured it to be a phony" and when the raid did not take place, the fire bomb was hurled without incident.

The July 29 fire bomb incident occurred during the limited emergency proclaimed by Mayor Tate on July 27 after reports from Rizzo of possible riot attempts.